4:Pittier de Fabrega B-5 (ca. 1900) 1903
SA19 Talamanca SA19



539 Brunka to his presence, and told him he could go, and to be careful not to wound hogs again without killing them. He also marked in his presence all the hogs he would be at liberty to kill. And the man went away through the woods, until he got to Krámra-us,[1] where he met with a few of his kinsmen who were hunting hogs. When they saw the man who used to cure them, the hogs always ran to him, and never would go away, so that he could easily kill all those which had been marked for him. And he always advised his companions never to wound animals, but to kill them right away.

### VII. DON PEDRO CASCANTE.

(Legend of the hollow trail of El Pito.[2])

487 773 [481] In very remote times, when the Spaniards had not yet arrived in these countries, the Indians only could climb up from the coast of Quepos to the high mountains of Dota by following the long and tiresome ridge of El Pito, bound together by means of the royal vine into files of ten to twenty, and pulled by witchcraft without any effort from their side. But, also, on each journey one man disappeared without the others being aware when or how, and that was the toll they paid for the dreaded ascent.

539 This great calamity had lasted for numberless years, and the trail to El Pito became deeper and narrower from day to day, on account of the way they had to go over it, bound together in long files, when a very holy missionary father left Cartago, riding a strong white mule, to go and win over the Indians. And as he was going down to the coast through the fearful road of El Pito, he met the "Encanto" which had taken the form of a big turkey, and would not get out of the road to let the holy man pass. Then the father became very angry; he alighted from his mule, bound the turkey with a blessed string, and dragged him down hill until they got to the place called "Alto de los Cotos." There he tied him to a large tree which he blessed, and told him that he would stay there up to the day of the final doom. And from that day hence, the "Encanto" never again annoyed the passers-by.

Only a certain Pedro Cascante, who had a large breeding-farm of mules and cattle, down on the plain of "El Calicanto," allowed himself to become a prey to his avarice, and on account of it, he lost his soul.

Cascante had become very rich by carrying out to San Marcos the

[103]

[1] Krámra-us, name of a place on the lower Diquís.

[2] This trail, so deeply cut into the ridge of El Pito as to be tunnel-like at a few places, leads from San Marcos, once one of the principal residences of the Quepos Indians, down to the coastal plains of the Pacific.

6:Stone E-5 (1956-1959)1962
SA19 Talamanca SA19

[P. 3(1)]
[PP. 1-2 contain no textual material]

## GEOGRAPHY

131 COSTA RICA is a relatively small country consisting of 50,900 square kilometers of land, the greater portion of which is rough, mountainous terrain. The heart of the republic is the Central Plateau where the bulk of the population is of Spanish descent with little indigenous blood and where the soil is highly cultivated or turned into pasture land.

Eastern Costa Rica, however, is, for the most part, forest with concentrated nucleuses of diverse aboriginal groups (fig. 1). The southern littoral of this section is formed by the 131 133 plain of Talamanca which geographically includes the region from the Reventazón River to the actual border with Panama. The long ridges of the Talamanca Range, one of the highest in Central America, commence at the eastern bank of the Reventazón River and run southward from the plain, rising to a maximum elevation of 3,583 meters. There are only a few 131 difficult passes across these mountains: a trail 133 from Cabagra on the Pacific slope to the upper Lari River, habitat of the Bribri Indians; a trail 487 from Ujarrás on the Pacific side to the upper Coen River, the dividing line between the Bribri and the Cabécares; and a trail from Canaan northwest of the General Valley to the Chirripó River, which area is also the home of

[TEXT CONTINUES TOP OF P. 3(B) - GUAYMI]

## HISTORICAL ORIENTATION

175 103 **Regional Terminology.** The word Talamanca is not indigenous. It first appears in documents referring to the founding of the Spanish town [101] of Santiago de Talamanca, in 1605, by Diego [35] de Sojo, who chose the name in honor of his own birthplace.[2] The site he picked was in a valley known in 1605 as Duy or Guaymí (both of which were also names of provinces)[3] but which earlier was called Coaça. The first re-

[TEXT CONTINUES BOTTOM OF P. 3(B) - GUAYMI]

[115] [1] The identification of these trees and grasses was made by Dr. Paul J. Shanks, forester, who accompanied the writer on a field trip from Ujarrás to Cabécar and the Talamanca Valley.

[2] See Fernández, 1886, vol. V, pp. 116-30; Lehmann,

[P. 3(B)]

## GEOGRAPHY

the Cabécares. Still another trail runs parallel to the coast from Chirripó to Talamanca. What is known as the valley of Talamanca is limited to the region of the Sixaola River.

**Flora.** For about 1,800 meters above the plain of Talamanca is rain forest where many edible fruits, nuts, and medicinal plants are found. Inland, behind this zone and extending over the continental divide, is an area of cloud forests broken only by small patches of paramo on the highest crests. It is extremely rugged country with the south side being steeper than that of the Caribbean. The cloud forest vegetation consists chiefly of hard woods such as oak, including *Quercus copeyensis*, Ira Quizarrá (*Magnolia poasana*), and large areas of *Chinchona pubesens*.[3]

On the Pacific slope of the range there is no rain forest. In the vicinity of the two most eastern passes, however, from approximately 1,670 meters, and continuing intermittently to the two important upland valleys of southeastern Costa Rica, the General and Potrero Grande, are savanna lands showing to a certain extent evidences of cultivation in the remote past. The principal grass genera in this area are *Agropyrum*, *Festuca*, and *Stipa*.

## HISTORICAL ORIENTATION

ports concerning this region are contained in a suit between Hernán Sanchez de Badajoz and Rodrigo de Contreras over its conquest in 1540. The name of the valley was derived from that of a chieftain, Coaça or Coaza, of Mexican extraction, who had gained control before the Spanish arrival,[4] and was a bitter enemy of a neighboring leader, Tiriaca, Tariaca, or Cariaca.[5] The place name, Coaça, continued

[Text continues to P 0 of P.5(A)--Analyst]

1920, vol. 1, pp. 149–50, 213–14.

[4] *See*, e.g., Fernández, 1886, vol. IV, pp. 293–317.

[5] Fernández, 1907, vol. VI, pp. 236–323; Lothrop, 1944; Stone, 1956.

[6] *See* Fernández, 1907, vol. V, pp. 289, 317.

6:Stone E-8 (1956-1959)1962
[P.21(B)] SA19 Talamanca SA19
Bribri
Cabecar

482 (fig. 9, *d*). *Hevas* fastened to the tumpline are also used by both sexes to carry cargo.

● 487 [137] [438] **Roads.** The forest of southern Costa Rica is among the densest in the world. Trails, however, have been kept open since pre-Columbian times when trade was common between the Pacific and Caribbean sides (*see* Trade). Even today, one passes through cleared tunnels under the matted roots of trees and shrubs which, according to tradition, are the same passages "used by all our grandfathers." Of the three trails which cross the range (*see* Geography), that connecting the Lari region with 491 Cabagra is famous for its hammock bridges made of vines which span chasms and swift-flowing, boulder-ridden rivers. These bridges are also known in upper Chirripó. They are [192] called in Bribri *t'sá* which is the same word used for hammock, vine, bridge, and string. The vines are woven netlike to form one or two sides. The first type can be either a single net, the person crossing sideways as a crab, or it is placed as a railing along a log. To make the second style, two stout vines are swung across the space to be bridged and fastened securely on both sides. A narrow foot path of braided vines is tied to these so as to form a *V*, and the sides are laced in a large V-shape, or netlike, to the braided portion (fig. 11, *a*). These hammock bridges are remade every six months by the men from the nearest houses.

## *MANUFACTURES*

283 [824] [172] [462] One of the most important fibers comes from *pita* (*Agave* sp.). The presence of this plant in the forest is a sign, like the *pejibayes*, of a former habitation site. *Pita* is made into thread to tie arrows, carrying nets, etc. Both men and women prepare this fiber, although it is generally the women's task. The leaf is cut, peeled, and both ends chopped off to even the length. Every five inches the leaf is folded to soften it, and then it is put on a log and scraped with the blunt edge of a machete from the top to the bottom. At the bottom end, the woman pulls the remaining outer fibers off and ties the two ends of the leaf

[90] Pittier, 1938, p. 13.

[P. 52(B)] SA19 Talamanca SA19
Cabécar
Bribri

776 sky, *kakəLjtə*, and traveled from Talamanca to Boruca naming as he went all the peaks, rivers, and creeks. He passed through Cabécar also on this journey. His name signifies *eternity* because "he has always existed and has never ceased to exist." During this period, the Térrabas were monkeys. Later they were changed to people.

•[487] *bukLbru* (Cabécar and Bribri). The trail that leads from Talamanca to Ujarrás crosses a peak at an altitude of 2150 meters, just beyond the division of waters on the Pacific slope. Here, those Indians who make the journey for the first time must leave a small fragment of their clothing on a staff. As they do this they say, "We pay equally not to become ill and not to suffer." Those going from Ujarrás to Talamanca, must do the same at *surstsaŋku* at an altitude of 1480 meters. This is because *bukLbru* is the lord of the peak and must be appeased so that he will protect the newcomers. Those who have made the trip before, and non-Indians, do not have to do this because "the heat of the initiated will protect them."

[484] [782] [487]

*wrigakl* is an old man who lives in a great pool. He is the guardian of fish.

There are many more lesser spirits. Some of these appear in the myths which follow.

**Theological Myths.** The number before the title corresponds to the same myth given in the Linguistic section of this book.[1]

### (1) The Birth of *sibu*[162] (Version 1)

### (*Cabécar*)

* 539 [776] *sibu* is like air. He has no father. In order to come to this world he entered a woman in the form of air. God himself, however, went underground through the four worlds[163] and appeared when the pregnant woman went to the brook. There he was found in the form of a newly born babe. The woman joyously gathered him up and carried him to her house.

The woman had some brothers who were powerful medicine men. They asked her whether the child was hers or whether he was God. The woman answered, "He is my child."

[772] [163] The four underground worlds of the Cabécares are: for sickness; for the owner of animals; for dead Indians; for evil spirits.

[1 See category 116, ¶¶ 75-95 - Analyst.]

6:Stone E-5 (1956-1959)1962
[R62(A)] SA19 Talamanca SA19
Cabecar

make him sleep. It is then that the water-jaguar takes advantage and goes upstream. He searches for cacao, and when he discovers a well-ripened pod he breaks it open. This is when people drown because the water-jaguar goes from pool to pool inviting them to drink cacao with him. Wise people refuse because they know if they accept, they must die.

The water-jaguar, nevertheless, continues from pool to pool insisting on being accompanied until finally someone approaches and drinks with him. Instead of cacao, however, the liquid is blood from the corpse. Once the feast is over, the empty pod is thrown out of the river. This is when we find the body of the drowned person.

At this very moment, *óknamá* awakes and notes that the water-jaguar has passed him. He realizes this because the plants are spotted.[189] Then he sends *serike* to fetch the water-jaguar and all those who drank cacao with him. When all are in front of *óknamá*, he has them cooked in a large pot and eats the victims and water-jaguar.

### (12) *onombrasén*[190]

(*Cabécar*)

When the rivers rise, the water-jaguar goes up and down inviting people to drink cacao with him. Most people refuse, but he always gets some. It is then that the water-jaguar drinks their blood as if it were cacao.

*onombrasén*, who is a spirit who looks after people, is warned by the cormorant and kingfisher. They tell him where the water-jaguar is drowning people by drinking their blood for cacao.

### (13) The Myth of *Mano del Tigre*[191]

(*Cabécar*)

*Mano del Tigre* is one of the large savannas through which lies the trail from Buenos Aires to Boruca. Curiously enough it is found on almost all the maps of Costa Rica, from the earliest times to the present. There is nothing

[189] After a flood, the water leaves its mark on the vegetation along the river banks. Stone jaguar is sometimes substituted for water jaguar.

[190] *See* Linguistic Texts: *onombrasén*. Compare with The Myth of *óknamáte*.

[191] *See* Linguistic Texts: *namá tš* (jaguar print).